

The Major Events of the Day

Indochina
The Defense Department announced that United States planes had destroyed three Cambodian patrol boats in an effort to block removal of crew members from the seized American merchant ship Mayaguez to the Cambodian mainland. There were indications of an imminent military operation to recover the ship and crew. A late-afternoon meeting of the National Security Council was followed by consultation between President Ford and bipartisan Congressional leaders. [Page 1, Columns 1-8.]

The White House said that President Ford had consulted with Congressional leaders before ordering an attack on Cambodian patrol boats. Some of these leaders later insisted that they had merely been informed of a Presidential decision already taken. Senator Mike Mansfield, the Democratic leader, said he had been notified, not consulted, and thus had given no approval or disapproval. He said there were many questions he wanted answered. [1:7.]

Anti-American demonstrators in Laos ransacked United States buildings in Luang Prabang and Savannakhet. Three Americans in Savannakhet were reportedly seized and held in the home of the provincial governor. Embassy officials in Vientiane, the capital, said the evacuation of Americans scheduled to leave this year would begin at once. The American chargé d'affaires protested and demanded protection for Americans. [1:3.]

Premier Kukrit Pramoj of Thailand promised drastic action if the United States failed to remove marines brought in without his permission by this morning. He said Thailand did not intend to be drafted into American preparations to recover the Mayaguez. The Thai military command apparently was advised in advance that the marines were coming but did not notify him. [1:5.]

The United States was trying to extricate itself from a diplomatic crisis caused by the sending of marines into Thailand for possible deployment in rescuing the Mayaguez. Officially the State Department and White House withheld comment on a Thai note demanding the immediate withdrawal of the marines. Privately they said they could probably be removed by today if they can be ferried by helicopter to the aircraft carrier Coral Sea, and there was understanding of the embarrassment of the Thais who have been adopting a more neutral policy. [1:6.]

International

President Sadat of Egypt, interviewed by a Lebanese weekly journal, said he would seek American financial aid to help settle Cairo's large debts to the Soviet Union. He said he would discuss this with President Ford in Salzburg, Austria, next month. Mr. Sadat has been visiting Arab countries to seek consensus before the next step in negotiations. He reiterated a challenge to the United States to state that it wanted Israel to quit areas occupied in 1967. [1:7-8.]

Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko of the Soviet Union, in a Moscow speech, berated Secretary of State Kissinger for demanding an increased military budget while advocating a relaxation of tension. In an apparent hardening of the Soviet line toward Israel he said it could get a sufficient guarantee of its interests by recognizing the Palestinians' right to a separate state and quitting occupied Arab areas. [3:5-8.]

National

Former Commerce Secretary Maurice H. Stans was fined \$5,000 in Federal court in Washington for five admitted misdemeanor violations of campaign laws as chief fundraiser in President Nixon's 1972 re-election drive. He said later that the sentence showed that the violations were unintentional, and that he had been exonerated of any improper acts in connection with Watergate. [1:1-3.]

Metropolitan

White House economic advisers have drafted a response to New York City's plea for cash assistance, but the President has reportedly been too busy over Cambodia to approve it personally. It would suggest that Congressional action must precede any Federal relief, as was done for Penn Central in 1970 and Lockheed in 1971. Members of Congress from the city and Congressional leaders said any aid would be contingent on long-range economic, additional state aid and borrowing from banks. [1:1-2.]

The City Council's Committee on Public Safety is planning hearings on the operations of the Police Department. Councilman Leon A. Katz, the Brooklyn Democrat who is committee chairman, said he was disturbed by reports of breakdowns in police administration and poor morale. The announcement followed a call for such hearings by officers of the Detectives' Endowment Association. [1:3.]

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Quotation of the Day

"We're going to sell New York to the Shah of Iran. It's a hell of an investment."—William E. Simon, Secretary of the Treasury, on leaving a White House conference with President Ford. [3:8-2.]

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